

# Executive Summary

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## Introduction

The Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) was prepared by the County of San Luis Obispo to comply with mandatory requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Final Rule and the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0005-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CA CAS000004, "Waste Discharge Requirements for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems" (MS4 General Permit). The NPDES Phase II Final Rule was adopted in December 1999 and requires operators of small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) located in designated urbanized areas (UAs) and in areas meeting certain regulatory criteria to develop and implement SWMPs. The State's MS4 General Permit was adopted on April 30, 2003 and implements the NPDES Phase II Final Rule in California.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has determined that the following unincorporated communities located in San Luis Obispo County are subject to NPDES Phase II requirements under the MS4 General Permit:

- 1) Baywood-Los Osos;
- 2) San Luis Obispo urban fringe;
- 3) Nipomo;
- 4) Atascadero/Paso Robles urban fringe including Templeton, Santa Margarita, and Garden Farms;
- 5) Cambria; and
- 6) Oceano

This SWMP covers the county owned or operated MS4 for unincorporated areas in San Luis Obispo County that have been designated and are within the jurisdiction of the County of San Luis Obispo. The seven incorporated cities within San Luis Obispo County have separate SWMPs that cover areas within their jurisdiction. Although, this SWMP is not a "regional SWMP", the County partners with the cities and CSDs to provide a regional approach to Stormwater

Pollution Prevention Public Education and Outreach.

## Purpose of the SWMP

The NPDES Phase II Final Rule and the MS4 General Permit mandate that regulated entities develop and implement SWMPs to reduce stormwater pollutants to receiving waters to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP) through the application of Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs must be applied in six specific areas: 1) Public Education and Outreach; 2) Public Participation and Involvement; 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; 4) Construction Site Runoff Control; 5) Post-Construction Stormwater Management; and 6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. This SWMP defines the method for selecting and prioritizing BMPs under each category and provides a description, timetable, and set of measurable goals for each. The SWMP assigns responsibilities for implementation and describes the method for updating the SWMP and submitting annual reports.

The SWMP provides an integrated approach for prevention of pollution from stormwater runoff in San Luis Obispo County. The program relies heavily on public education and outreach and public participation and involvement to prevent pollution problems at the source. The program seeks to employ the most cost effective means to achieve the objectives of the NPDES Phase II Final Rule and the MS4 General Permit and to coordinate stormwater runoff pollution prevention efforts throughout the County. County staff members anticipate that the SWMP will continuously improve based upon an iterative process of evaluating the results of the program using measurable goals.

## Alignment with Existing Practices

The SWMP was designed to provide a framework for a comprehensive stormwater management program to meet the mandatory requirements of the NPDES

Phase II Final Rule and the MS4 General Permit. The SWMP capitalizes on aligning existing water quality activities and stormwater management practices with current BMPs. The SWMP includes BMPs, with Measurable Goals, that can be used to guide the County Board of Supervisors in their results based decision-making process during budget deliberations for the current fiscal year and in following years.

### **Accomplishments To Date**

Several county departments participated in developing the SWMP. In addition, county staff members coordinated with other local agencies and other Central Coast counties to determine the most effective BMPs to meet the needs of San Luis Obispo County. The County retained a team of consultants (RMC and CMCA) to perform a regulatory analysis, to research best management practices, to conduct surveys and compile information regarding existing practices in the County, and to prepare significant components of the program.

RMC completed a NPDES Stormwater Phase II Work Plan in February 2002, an action that preceded development of this SWMP. The Work Plan identified the costs and staffing required to implement a range of SWMP alternatives. Based on the Work Plan, the County Department of Public Works began the budget and hiring process for new staff and for developing the program. The County retained CMCA and RMC to assist in the preparation of this SWMP in September 2002. The team assessed existing programs and practices in the county and contacted the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for recommendations. Based on the recommendations of the RWQCB, the team identified water bodies in the County affected by the designated communities and the beneficial uses that are impaired in those water bodies.

The team developed criteria for identifying appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address specific water quality problems, weighted criteria based on certain factors, and applied criteria to BMPs to determine a relative score. Based on their scores, BMPs were applied to address

impaired beneficial uses and pollutants of concern. Management strategies and opportunities for feedback and updating the program were identified. The Board of Supervisors approved the first revision of the SWMP on February 25, 2003 and it was submitted to the RWQCB on March 10, 2003.

The RWQCB reviewed the original version of the SWMP and requested revisions on February 6, 2004. The RWQCB requested that the County update the original SWMP to reference the MS4 General Permit and the 2002 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list that were adopted by the State after the original SWMP was submitted. The RWQCB also requested that the County add more detailed information about the BMPs and their associated measurable goals and move up the SWMP implementation timelines. The second revision of the SWMP reflects compliance with RWQCB requests and was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2004 and submitted to the RWQCB on May 7, 2004.

On October 13, 2004, the RWQCB approved the second revision of the SWMP and posted it on the State Water Resources Control Board website for the required sixty-day public comment period. The RWQCB received extensive comments and a request for public hearing from a national environmental organization, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and their consultant on December 12, 2004, the last day of the public comment period. No other comments were received.

On November 7, 2005, the County received a letter from the RWQCB requesting additional revisions to the SWMP to be re-submitted no later than January 3, 2006. To ensure adequate time to revise the SWMP, the County requested an extension of the deadline to June 30, 2006. This request was granted by the RWQCB.

The Department of Public Works will continue to lead implementation of the SWMP following approval.